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Review Conference of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

3 June 2015

English only

Second Preparatory Meeting for the First Review Conference
Geneva, 24 June 2015
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Exchange of views on the political declaration for adoption at the First Review Conference

Draft
2015 Dubrovnik Declaration: *Spectemur agendo* (judged by our actions)

1. We, the representatives of the States parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, together with representatives of other States present as signatories, the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Cluster Munition Coalition and other international, regional and national organizations and institutions, gathered for the First Review Conference to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Dubrovnik, Croatia, a country whose capital Zagreb was itself the target of a cluster munitions strike in 1995, reaffirm our commitment to end the harm caused by cluster munitions. We welcome the [xx] non-signatory States that attend the Meeting as observers as a demonstration of their commitment to the humanitarian goals of the Convention.

2. The adoption, entry into force and implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions is the ground-breaking result of the determination, action and successful partnership between States, international organisations and civil society to end the harm caused by cluster munitions by prohibiting the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions, remedying the effects of past use by assisting victims, their families and communities and clearing contaminated land. The Convention is proof that it is possible for this partnership to take bold, visionary and decisive action to solve our collective problems and is a testament to the importance of humanitarian disarmament in global affairs.

Preventing harm and reducing risk

3. At this first quinquennial, we note with great satisfaction the results we have collectively achieved as highlighted at Meetings of States Parties held in Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Norway, Zambia and Costa Rica. In the five years following entry into force, most of the affected countries and many former users, producers and stockpilers have joined this effort. To date, [116] States have committed to the goals of the Convention, of which [91] have become full States parties, with as many as [seven] joining since the last Meeting in San José, while [25] await the submission of their instruments of ratification. States parties call on them to do so without delay, and urge all

States not party to accede to the Convention to ensure that it reaches its full potential in the shortest possible time frame.

4. The work of State parties to implement the provisions of the Convention, in clearance and risk reduction activities, in stockpile destruction and in assistance and support to victims, their families and communities, is already making a difference on the ground: five years after entry into force, Central America became the first sub-region free of cluster munitions; [six] States parties affected by cluster munitions remnants have declared compliance with obligations under Article 4 and many States parties with high levels of contamination are actively working to meet their treaty obligation to clear land and protect the communities from the threats posed. National ownership and commitment for the early destruction of stocks of cluster munitions have resulted in the declaration of compliance of [22] States parties under Article 3 and in the destruction of more than [80] per cent of reported cluster munitions stockpiles.

5. Building upon these achievements and the recommendations of the Vientiane Action Plan Review, we also recognize the need to overcome the challenges we have identified towards universalization, the long-term and sustainable provision of assistance to victims, efficiency and effectiveness in clearing cluster munitions remnants as well as regarding the importance of maintaining the momentum of stockpile destruction, of enhancing cooperation and assistance and of strengthening partnerships for a stronger Convention.

6. It is therefore with great distress that in addition to previously reported use, we learn about the recent and repeated use of cluster munitions in the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Libya, three States not parties to the Convention. We deplore the use of cluster munitions in [seven] States since entry into force of the Convention and, indeed, we condemn the use of cluster munitions, which cause unacceptable harm to civilian populations and objects, by any actor. Such acts run counter to the spirit and aim of the Convention and exacerbate the humanitarian problem already caused by the prior use of these weapons with indiscriminate and inhuman effects. We call upon those who continue to use cluster munitions, as well as those who develop, produce, otherwise acquire, assist, encourage and induce the production, stockpiling, retention and transfer of these weapons, to cease immediately and to join us in the task of eradicating them. We also note the vehement denials by alleged users following public disclosure as good indicators of the stigma now associated with cluster munitions and conclude that States not party to the Convention no longer want to be associated with these weapons.

7. Meeting in Dubrovnik, a city torn by war just over 20 years ago, we are reminded of the importance of our work and what collective efforts can do for recovery, having brought this city back to its former splendour and glory. Complacency can have no place when witnessing the devastation caused by violence and conflict on individuals, their families and communities, wherever it occurs. The preventive nature of the Convention on Cluster Munitions combined with the recovery efforts put in place to remedy the damage done is a testament to what can and must be achieved when post-facto, we learn of the consequences of our actions.

8. The leadership shown by the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Norway, Zambia, Costa Rica and Croatia together with the partners in this endeavour, affected and non-affected alike, and always backed by and urged on by the many survivors, continues to be a key driver of our success. Judged by our actions, we, the States parties, therefore reaffirm our commitments to fulfil the obligations under the Convention without delay.

Achieving a world free of cluster munitions

9. Guided by the strategic roadmap outlined in the Dubrovnik Action Plan, we are compelled to do more, for as long as people remain at risk, to ensure that deadlines are met by declarations of compliance, and that the rights of cluster munition victims are realised. We hope to accomplish more by the ten-year anniversary of the Convention in 2020, to bring us closer to our collective goal of a world free of cluster munitions. Therefore, we, the States parties hereby commit to:

(a) Implement fully all of the obligations under the Convention, in partnership with international organisations and civil society and guided by the overall actions outlined in the Dubrovnik Action Plan;

(b) Ensure that cluster munitions remain a stigmatized weapon;

(c) Urge all States outside of the Convention to join as soon as possible, and discourage them from any future use of cluster munitions;

(d) Reaffirm support to victims and survivors, including all persons directly impacted by cluster munitions as well as their families and communities through comprehensive assistance adapted to their specific needs, particularly through strengthening international cooperation and assistance under the provisions of the Convention;

(e) Work towards a world free of the suffering, casualties and socio-economic impacts caused by cluster munitions.